

Dear FCC Commissioners,

As a fellow citizen who is deeply concerned about the preservation of American democracy, I feel strongly that your role in regulating media ownership is essential to preserving a free press, and thus a democracy, in this country. The majority of all U.S. media =E2=80=93 newspapers, radio, T V, magazines, film =E2=80=93 are owned by only six powerful corporations, and 80 percent

owned by large companies. In 1946, that same proportion was owned by individuals and small companies. In other words, the press was in the hands

of the people, the citizens of this country. Now the media outlets have exploded in number, and their control has shrunk to the hands of a powerful few.

This can not and does not constitute a free press, and thus can not and does

not serve our democracy. A free press means that the press is in the hands of the people, the citizenry, both for production and for consumption. A free press can NOT be accomplished by large corporations whose sole interest

is to satisfy stockholders with the greatest profits. Nor can it be accomplished by large corporations owning locally served markets, nor by large corporations holding ownership served in these instances, NOT the people. The FCC was established to PROTECT our First Amendment right to a free press by REGULATING its use and abuses.

You, as F.C.C. Commissioners and public servants, are charged with the grave responsibility of ensuring the continuance of this free press and therefore have an obligation to do the following:

1. Regulate ownership of broadcast media and newspapers such that no single corporation or company or person is allowed to own both, anywhere locally or

nationally, for operation in this country.

2. Restrict ownership of local radio stations to local/regional residents.

3. Regulate ownership of television and radio such that no single corporation

or company or person is allowed to own both, anywhere locally or nationally,

for operation in this country.

4. Restrict ownership of local TV stations to local/regional residents.

5. Regulate ownership of national networks such that no single corporation o

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company or person is allowed to own more than one, anywhere locally or nationally, for operation in this country.

6. Restrict ownership of national networks to American citizens and residents.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Ahlgren

